

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

STEVE SILVEIRA, TOMMY MULHERN, DON GRANT, HOWARD GREENFIELD AND OTHER CALIFORNIANS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION made the 23rd Annual Conference (ours) and 35th Annual Conference (theirs) a mighty memorable occasion. With a registration of 700 and over 1000 in attendance (including a passel of school children who gazed round eyed at us Scientists), it was also one of the largest yet. The banquet had so many people the Gold Ballroom couldn't hold them all and it had to be held in TWO rooms . . . but we all sat in each others laps for the ceremonies . . . with Mo HIRST in his famous and competent role of Emcee. BOB VANNOTE, receiving an award plaque as our First President, remembered when AMCA was founded in Atlantic City 23 years ago (gosh, *we remember that!*). He then paid tribute to the officers who have so ably carried our great Association along from that day to this. Plaques were then presented to UNCLE HARRY STAGE, who was our next prexy (46-7) and founded the Good Neighbor Club and, to ROLLIE DORER, who said "y'all come" to the 1969 meetings in Williamsburg (Virginia), which Rollie has had so much to do with making meeting-able by making it mosquito-free. Next came awards to DICK PETERS, to Mo, to ARCHIE HESS, BILL "BICK" BICKLEY, ART GEIB, JOHNNY MULRENNAN and TONY BROWN. JAY GRAHAM, retiring as Prexy, gave the plaque himself to DON REES who had so many former students present they made a small forest when they stood up, and who has been not only a teacher and moving spirit in forming mosquito abatement districts but a director of an MAD and a trustee of one. And Jay received an award from HARRY PRATT, our new President.

The "Skeeters" favored (?) us with their Annual Song and went on amid loud applause and cries of "No! No!" to another as encore. That's FRANK CREADON as *Anopheles*, DON MURRAY as *Culex*, DICK PETERS as *Aedes* and TONY BROWN as *Mansonia*, in case you've forgotten. They promised to have a new repertoire for the 1970 meeting.

THERE WERE NEW WORDS WE WON'T EVEN REPEAT BANDIED ABOUT IN SOME OF THE PAPERS but, although we fought and won the war against *Arbovirus*, we don't intend to publicize these new monsters until word gets around. As G. A. H. McCLELLAND said, "If you don't quite understand it, give it a name." But HE gave *Aedes aegypti* a name we kind of thought well of. It's a "weed" animal, he said, because it has the genetic adaptability and stamina to make out in changing environments. (That's known as genetic plasticity.)

We picked up some unpublished news too. Like LARRY LEWALLEN telling us about the time he had in Burma with HARRY MATHIS in the fight against *Jatigans* breeding in unbelievable numbers in sewer ditches . . . and carrying filariasis. (They were working to lower the population below the threshold of transmission . . . an unknown.) BILL McDUFFIE told us how happy he was to turn Man and Animals over to DON WEIDHAAS and kick the dust of Washington from his boots in favor of Florida, where he is consultant to Dow, when he isn't house-fixing and yard-planting.

WE THINK WE OUGHT TO GIVE A HAND TO AMERICAN CYANAMID FOR FURNISHING US WITH SILVER POTS AND SILVER POTS OF COFFEE AT every break . . . and to JEEP (KAISER-WILLYS) for picking up the Hospitality Hour tab for yet another generous year.

WE WERE KIND OF LOOKING FORWARD TO A REAL IRISH BATTLE . . . MAYBE EVEN A FIST FIGHT . . . WHEN WE READ THE PROGRAM but shux, nuthin like that could happen among us friends, could it now? Well, the subject was *Opposing Philosophies in Mosquito Control Technology*, a panel moderated by JOHNNY MULRENNAN and spoken to by ANDREW ROGERS for the defense (Adulticides), HOWARD GREENFIELD for the Opposition (Larvicides), D. J. SUTHERLAND (with absentee DAN JOBBINS for the Fundamentalists (Source Reduction) and ERNIE BAY for the Space Age (Biological Control). It turned out we are all on the same side, namely, using all the weapons we have and fitting them to the situation at hand. This many-ranged arsenal approach was further amplified by DICK HOLWAY in a paper about the war (against mosquitoes) in Viet Nam, ecology added by FRED SANTANA, and incorporating data on field work being conducted by TED BLAKESLEE and JIM WILLMAN among others, who could not be there to participate, unfortunately.

SPEAKING ABOUT VIET NAM REMINDS US that we saw JUN BAILEY in Saigon shortly after his recent return from leave at home in Virginia. He was telling us about his AID program and the high level of effectiveness it had achieved in 1964, when some 1,200,000 houses were sprayed in the area just north of Saigon alone, protecting some six million people. Alas, this did not escape the attention of the Viet Cong, ever anxious to discredit the Government of their country by whatever terrorism is required. At first permissive, they began to snipe and since 1960 there have been more than a dozen Vietnamese workers killed, 58 or so are missing and more than 40 kidnapped, harassed and allowed to escape. At

the same time 22 vehicles and over 350 sprayers and large supplies of DDT were destroyed or stolen. Planes are, of course, routinely fired upon and in some places far afield there is a cadre of chiefs but no indians. But the work goes on.

IN OTHER AREAS WHO IS STILL KEEPING THE ANTI-MALARIA FLAG FLYING—as many of you know by personal contact. (WHO's program in Viet Nam is by no means closed.) ROY FRITZ, who is now Senior Scientist/Entomologist in Vector Control in Geneva, says it's meeting time there now . . . or was when he wrote. They had just finished two weeks of Scientific Group meetings on rodent and mosquito ecologies. MARSHALL LAIRD is interesting himself and others these days in "annual fish" and has been working on an annotated bibliography of the very extensive literature on larvivorous fish in general. He says, "We are trying to avoid any repetition of the ecologically unsound manner in which *Gambusia* was spread to many parts of the world in the period between the two World Wars, without preliminary efforts being made to ascertain what effects—both good and bad—these introductions might have on the local biota. . . . ERNIE BAY has undertaken a very thorough preliminary evaluation of the potentialities of *Cynolebias bellottii* under the conditions prevailing in Californian rice fields." (See previous paragraph.) WHO has already supported the initiation of studies at the University of Zambia under the direction of Professor L. K. H. GOMA who hopes eventually to be able to furnish detailed information on the ecological parameters of a wide selection of species of *Nothobranchius* and *Cynolebias*.

ANOTHER FAR-AFIELD OUTPOST OF MOSQUITO STUDIES OF WHICH YOU HAVE ALL HEARD is the Army Laboratory at the SEATO lab in Bangkok, where DOUG GOULD, MOUFIED MOUSSA (who is now Major Moussa, and congratulations! Moufied), Capt. LOUIS RUTLEDGE and Sgt. E. L. PEYTON have been delving into the innards and outwards of their exotic little friends. They have found *Ae. aegypti* in happy confraternity with *Ae. albopictus* (Calling Aegyptid!!) or at least in the same niche, if not always the same jars . . . so there goes another nice theory. You can't solve the *aegypti* problem by introducing also, after all.

They have also implicated *Culex gellidii* in the transmission of encephalitis, have positive dissections of *A. minimus*, *A. maculatus* and *A. balibasensis*, have a colony of *A. minimus* going to the fourth (as of November . . . fifth, sixth . . . seventh?) generation, are instituting a study of *A. aconitus* and bringing out an illustrated key to the Anophelinae of Thailand. One interesting thing . . . they have managed to infect gibbons with human malaria but these show no symptoms of discomfort, let alone chills, fever or malaise. One, on post-mortem for an accidental death by something else, showed abnormal "secondary" spleen. Could this splenic excess be

the reason for the malaria "suppression"? We look forward to the next exciting chapter of their findings.

WE DON'T KNOW GERALD PATRICK BUT SOMEHOW WE'D LIKE TO. He sounds sort of interesting. In *This Week* magazine for Christmas (which we read reclining on the Black Sands beach of the Big Islands, under a coconut palm), a short article recounted that he once picked all the insects off a camel but his biggest challenge was the fight against malaria, which meant pitching tents in swamps, staying up all night, "dragging heavy boxes of larva (sic) to the laboratory before the ice could melt, studying mosquitoes around the clock, constantly risking malaria, one of the great unsolved diseases of the world." He collected mosquitoes, it said, by rolling up his trouser legs, waiting to be bitten, then trapping them. Since it was in *This Week*, we guess we're not violating publication to add that he found a species, previously unknown to North Africa and observed only a few times in the whole world, living in abundance in Morocco—"the *Culex brumppi*." Come in, Gerald, and tell us what really happened!

COLONEL HAN SCHENKER HAS BEEN RUNNING ABOUT EUROPE SO BUSILY THIS PAST YEAR YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT EXCEPT FOR THE FACT IT WAS HAN. Although he's in Landstuhl, Germany, and further from some of his Army colleagues than WE are, he manages to keep up on their doings and has sent us a list of recent promotions you may be interested in. HAN and HUGH KEEGAN both got their eagles during the year and TED BLAKESLEE is listed to be by the time you read this. WALLY MURDOCH, JOHN SCANLON, BILL YOUNG, BILL BARNES and PAUL FOLEY are now silver-leaved Lt. Colonels; BILL DIMMIT, MOUFIED MOUSSA (previously noted), MARTIN TAYLOR, BOB UPHAM and JIM WILLMAN are all Majors. Congratulations all! And to USN CAPTAINS HULL and TELLER and to Colonel GEARY, whom we should have mentioned before.

WE HOPE THAT YOU ALL GET *THE TRANSMITTER* BECAUSE WE AIN'T ALLOWED TO QUOTE IT but the neat, little, newsy little magazine put out by Aegypterad had a beautifully clear picture on the front page of issue No. 8, of an Air Force C-123 flying over Dallas, one of six which were used in that famed operation. This is the plane Majors ADAMS and MARSHALL used with Ted and Jim on Con Son Island in Viet Nam and which is also of use in the Ranch Hand defoliation operations which unmasks VC hideouts along otherwise peaceful riverbanks in the riceland of the delta there. (If you want to see good pictures of AF flight suits and sunglasses masking Claude and Carl, see page 3 of the same *Transmitter*. Did you see the wonderful movies they showed at San Francisco, with JOHN KILPATRICK?)

VMCA'S *SKEETER* HAS A THOUGHT IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE (AS IN NEARLY EVERY ISSUE)

THAT IS WELL WORTH THINKING ABOUT. *SKEETER* says, "We hear much today of popular products being offered to the public in 'disposable containers.' Disposable to whom? Is anyone so naive as to think that when he places the so-called disposable container in his garbage can, and the collector picks it up, this constitutes disposability, or that when he throws it out the window of a fast moving car this is the end?" *Skeeter* goes on to point out that these containers will be around for a long, long time in all too many cases, holding water and breeding mosquitoes, often in out of the way, concealed places. Most of us know how to look for beer cans by now, but what about waxed boxes frozen food came in? What about plastic potato salad containers . . . even throw-away plastic foam coffee cups? As if the ugliness (so uniquely typical of America) weren't bad enough! Thanks *ROLLIE DORER*, for the thought; now we'll *look* instead of averting our eyes.

ART LINDQUIST SAYS RETIREMENT IS TERRIBLE. He doesn't have enough time now to do all he wants to do! Well he does a good deal, seems to us. Like . . . *Art* and *Nita* returned in October from Europe where *Art* served on a committee to review agricultural research programs of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the FAO in Vienna and Rome. The four-man committee consisted, besides *Art*, of distinguished Doctors from Oxford, Stockholm and New Delhi. As you all know, *Art* was an early pioneer in the use of radioisotopes in studies on control of destructive insects and has published extensively in this field. While they were in Vienna, they attended the presentation by *Dr. Glenn Seaborg* of the Enrico Fermi award to three Europeans, the first time the award has been given outside the U. S. En route home, they toured Denmark and Southern Sweden. Then on to Oregon, hey ho.

ERNSTINE THURMAN SWARTZWELDER HAS BEEN SO BUSY YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE *THAT* EITHER and it all sounds so interesting we hardly know where to start in excerpting her letter. No doubt many of you lucky people are on her list, anyway. Well, to be brief, *Tina* is enjoying her work in LSU School of Medicine and received a gold medallion from colleagues in the Department of Pathology, who appreciated her contributions as have all her colleagues heretofore. She *says* she is less busy with professional organizations than she was in Washington and much busier with

sewing, landscaping, interior decorating, LSU Faculty Wives' Club and teen-age activities, but still finds time to lecture occasionally in the public schools, so it doesn't sound as if things have changed much. . . . just added on a bit. *Phyllis* and *Deed III* sound as if they are following right along and *Clyde* is no slouch himself so *when* they are home to all the guests they entertain is a mystery but we have outside witnesses. It's all wonderful to hear, *Tina!*

BESIDES MANY TRIPS HITHER AND YON, WE FIND THE USUAL NUMBERS OF *AMCA*'ERS travelling to new and greener fields and although we can't keep up with all of them, here are a few:

DR. FRED BISHOPP has moved from Alexandria back to Manhattan Beach, Calif. *DR. SAM BREELAND* has left Taixus for the TVA, at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and *DR. KEN KNIGHT* has gone from Iowa to the University of Georgia! *DR. DICK GERHARDT* has left Brookings for Aegypterad in Geawja, too, and *DAVE PITTS* has left Miami for the same destination. *CHESTER MOORE* has gone from California to Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) and just in time, to, from all we hear, while a character masquerading under *OUR* name (see masthead) has moved from the Pacific Division, Bureau of Yards and Docks, to some damnfool thing called Naval Facilities Engineering Command, obviously a phony organization. But he *SAYS* he wants to hear from everyone, especially those whose names we've misspelled, so write him, hear?

JACK ARMSTRONG left Ontario a few months ago for the Mosquito Research & Control unit of Grand Cayman, Cayman Is., B.W.I., which we think is a winter resort, judging from the ads in the New Yorker, and not a place to work at all. *ADRIAN GENTILE* is another refugee from the Terror in California and is now in Laurel, Maryland. Major *FRANK DOWELL*, late of the Philippines and then of Washington, D.C. is now *DR. Frank H. Dowell* of the Olin Research Center, in New Haven, Connecticut, *DR. C. T. O'CONNOR, JR.*, has gone to Port au Prince, which is really in Haiti but is listed as Dept. of State, Washington, D.C., *R. W. BAGLEY* has left New York State for Temistocles 225, Mexico 5, D.F. (which sounds pretty classical) and *TOM BAST* is now *DR. Thomas Bast II* of the New York State Department of Health, in Albany, N. Y., and *JOE WEBB* has unretired and *commutes* from Atlanta to Aegypterad. Boy!